



LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes

Date: Thursday December 19, 2019

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Robbins Library, 4th Floor Conference Room

Attendees: Commissioners Mel Goldsipe (Chair), Lisa Krinsky, Bill Gardiner, Brooks Harrelson, Andy Rubinson

Liaisons: Marci Shapiro-Ide – Arlington Council on Aging

Visitors: Representatives from Diversity and Inclusion Groups (DIGS) in Arlington Schools

Katie Martin – Bishop (Nurse)
Sylvia Elmer – Hardy
Aly Frank -Bishop DIG
Lisa Lambert – Gibbs QSA (science teacher)
Inae Hwang – Brackett DIG (chair of SEPAC)
AC Calcetarra – Brackett Rainbow Alliance
Maureen Mulhern –Lex Pride
Christy Odell – Brackett (sub)
Sharon Lipton – Stratton DIG

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm. LK assigned as minute-taker.

1. **Announcements:** MG sat in on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator interviews and offer will be made to candidate very soon, with hope of starting in beginning of new year.
2. **Open Forum:** none
3. **Discussion with elementary school DIGs and Rainbow Alliances:** All schools have a DIG, some have a Rainbow Alliance; Ottoson has QSA and AHS has GSA. Each does its own work, no consistency or coordination through system.
Some issues addressed:

- Books for Pride – library and classrooms. Suggestion that library staff help develop recommended list of books for schools/classrooms.
- Gender-neutral bathrooms – how to incorporate this within current buildings beyond using bathroom in nurse's office
- PFLAG in-service training on gender neutral language, etc.
- Reporting of phobic incidents – social worker reports to school and then what happens?

- Staff training – some provided via professional development day but those are optional workshops. Nothing standardized throughout school or town.
- Issue of broader cultural competency for teachers – curriculum consultant looking at diversity inclusion – question if she can include LGBTQ as well? DIG member following up with her directly

4. **Consent Agenda:** BH moved to approve; AR seconded; passed.
5. **Events:** Future events discussion – Looking at lower-effort options for 1st quarter of 2020, to focus on recruiting new commissioners
Cosponsoring Arlington COA/Belmont COA “Karaoke and Cocoa” 1/15 at Arlington Senior Center. AR to assist with karaoke machine, etc.

Pride planning: Arlington Rainbow pride celebration is scheduled for 6/20/20 on the Robbins House library lawn. Porchfest is moved to new date (not Boston Pride weekend). AR to confirm new date

6. **Budget:** Christine Bongiorno, HHS, submitted our FY 2021 budget request of \$4000.
7. **Membership:** Recruitment for 2-3 new members will require new flyer/announcement – AR to create flyer and then to be distributed to the following: Town, town listing, advocate, Facebook page, DIGs, affinity groups, faith communities, other Commissions. AR motioned that we host an outreach/information session in January/February; BG seconded the motion; passed. 1 position will be liaison to school committee, other (s) via town administrator and select board.
8. **Subcommittees:**

Strategic Planning: Strategic Planning met 12/15/19 with most focus on recruitment/membership as well as transition strategies for Chair’s departure in upcoming months – including procedural, town liaison, finances, etc. SP will continue to meet monthly January – April 2020.

Liaisons and Partnerships: COA/Senior Center event with Belmont COA in January

Lex Pride – discussion of more collaborations including alternating TDOR event (Lexington 2019, Arlington 2020, Lexington 2021, etc.), but it’s likely the RC won’t be ready to host in Nov. 2020. Opportunity for active bystander training, offering drop center for queer youth. Lex Pride meets 2nd Friday/month 9am – Arlington Rainbow Commission welcome to attend.

ACMi – interested in collaboration on multi part series regarding social activism in the local community –LGBTQ related topics such as legal, youth, terminology, allyship, etc. Referring them to GLAD, PFLAG, etc. May have Commissioner participate in some as well.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m. (BH moved; BG seconded; passed)

Next meeting: January 16, 6:30 pm, Robbins Library, 4th Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Krinsky, Commissioner